

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in the application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. - 54. **(Canceled)**

55. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment of Crohn's disease of the anorectum and perianal region comprising ~~application of~~ applying directly to the affected area a topical composition comprising metronidazole or a pharmacologically acceptable derivative thereof at a therapeutically effective concentration of about 10 wt % for the treatment of Crohn's disease of the anorectum and perianal region in a pharmacologically acceptable non-aqueous vehicle ~~directly to the affected area~~.

56. – 59. **(Canceled)**

60. (Currently Amended) The A method as claimed in Claim 55 wherein the dose of metronidazole for each application is between from about 125 mg to about 1250 mg.

61. – 62. **(Canceled)**

63. (Currently Amended) The A method as claimed in Claim 55 wherein the composition is applied between from 2 to 4 times daily.

64. **(Canceled)**

65. (Currently Amended) The A method as claimed in Claim 55 wherein the topical medicament is applied following an anorectal operation.

66. (Currently Amended) The A method according to Claim 65 wherein the anorectal operation is selected from the group consisting of hemorrhoidectomy, a fistulotomy, a fissurectomy, a sphincterotomy, sphincteroplasty and incision and drainage of an abscess.

67. (Currently Amended) The A method according to Claim 65 wherein the anorectal operation is a hemorrhoidectomy.

68. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 55 wherein the concentration of metronidazole in the composition is about 10 wt %.

69. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 55 wherein the vehicle of the composition comprises a mixture of at least two semi-solid saturated hydrocarbon compounds.

70. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 55 wherein the vehicle of the composition comprises white petrolatum (USP).

71. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 55 wherein the composition further comprises a therapeutically effective amount of at least one steroid.

72. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 55 wherein the composition further comprises a therapeutically effective amount of at least one analgesic agent.

73. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 55 wherein the composition further comprises a therapeutically effective amount of at least one antimicrobial agent.

74. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 55 wherein the composition further comprises a therapeutically effective amount of at least one substance that either promotes skin integrity or inhibits skin breakdown.

75. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 55 wherein the composition further comprises a therapeutically effective amount of at least one anti-inflammatory agent.

76. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 55 wherein the composition further comprises a therapeutically effective amount of at least one antidiarrheal compound.

77. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 76 wherein the antidiarrheal compound is a bismuth salt.

78. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 55 wherein the composition consists essentially of metronidazole at a concentration of about 10 wt % in white petrolatum (USP).

79. (New) A method of treating a patient having Crohn's disease, comprising directly applying to the anorectum and perianal region of the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising metronidazole in a concentration of 5 wt% to about 50 wt% of the composition.

80. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 79, wherein the metronidazole is in a non-aqueous vehicle.

81. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 80, wherein the metronidazole is in a non-aqueous vehicle selected from the group consisting of petrolatum; zinc oxide; lanolin; a petroleum based-carrier; and a combination of petrolatum ceresin, mineral oil, and lanolin.